

I was greatly chocked to learn of the heroic death of a dear friend and a good pal, Lt. Charles Contos, on Jan. 14th, 1945, while on a flight to bomb Japan. Chuck participated in the first historic bombing over Tokyo. He was very active in the Greek Community of Chicago and well loved by all. A column dedicated to Chuck and describing his heroic deeds in which his life was sacrificed that we may be a free nation, will appear in the January issue that will mark the first anniversary of his untimely death.

OUR VETS



The number of our veterans is increasing. We shall continue a special column only to announce discharges, WELCOME HOME!

Zigfried Brzezinski, Yeo 3/C was discharged during September. He was stationed for a while in Newfoundland, Canada and England and for the past year in Pensacola, Fla. He has been with the Navy for four years. Zig is our pal Richard's older brother.

Pvt. Lester Barder, So. Pacific Vet., was released from Camp Butner, N. C., on Oct. 1st, and stopped off in Chicago to look up Bill and Ginger Yandel and Hugh Jones. Regret I missed seeing him as I was then in N. Dakota. Les is back in his home town of Peoria, Ill.

My Bro Kazy is, at long last, a civvie too. Kazy entered the service on January 14th, 1941. He was with the 3rd Marines and over-seas for 28 months. He participated in the Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima wars. Kazy and Lil, spent a few more weeks in Virginia on a delayed honeymoon before returning home to Chicago.

Our G-I poet PFC Gene Wierbach was released from Ft. Sill, Okla., and is back in his home town of Muncie, Ind. He'll be in Chicago for a visit. Gene is so excited geing a civvie that at present he is making no plans for the future.

Joe Wasilauskas, MM 2/C was discharged at the end of October from Great Lakes, Ill. He was for nearly two years in the dreary Aleutians, then back to the States for a short period and on again to the So. Pacific. He was stationed in the Admiralty group, later in Luzon. He is a CB and served four years in the Navy. He brought me cats-eyes for souvenirs. Chicago is his home.

Leopold Lukačauskas, cousin of Bunny Sovietski (Bunny was a very active L. Y. S'r during the clubs early days) is now attending the Ill. Inst. of Techno-

logy where he us studying architecture. Lee entered the service on June, 1942, and was in the 3rd Radar group serving the 3rd Marines. He was on various So. Pacific islands, Samoa, New Zealand, Espiritu Santo, Guadalcanal and Bougainville where he was wounded. He was hospitalized in New Caledonia and Oakland, Cal., but now is a picture of health.

T/Sgt. Herbert. R. Boyd was discharged on Sept. 19th from Camp Butner, N. C., the date of his 3rd wedding anniversary. His wife is the former Mildred Wolgermutth. Herbert entered the service on Nov. 26, 1941, and went across the 6th of June in 1944, and participated in the D-Day invasion and four other battles. He was wounded in his arm and hip during the battle of the Bulge, but in spite of the wounds he led his men through the battle and fought on without being hospitalized. For this battle he won the Purple Heart, a Presidential Citation, and a Good Conduct Medal. He is making his home in Collinsville, Ill.

PFC Marvin P. DeKoven was discharged during early October from Camp Custer, Mich., where he rested for a while. He entered the service on Jan. 26, 1943, went to England on Jan. 1, 1944, and to France on July 13, 1944. He was Surgial Technician in a Medical Aid Stationed and participated in the Norman and Northern France battles. He came back to the States on July 13th of this year. His present plans include a two month vacation with relatives in Hollywood and Los Angeles, then back to Chicago and on to Champaign, Ill., where he will attend the U. of Ill.

George J. Kesman MM 1/C joined the ranks of civilians and the circle of his little family of two small daughters, at Cicero, Ill. George crossed the Pacific and the Atlantic and participated in many actions. But the greatest grief he experienced was the death of his young and loving wife, while he was in the midst of the battle in the Pacific Area. Upon his return from the Atlantic Theatre, he was hospitalized in Philadelphia for several months. Glad you're Back, George.

Julian Grembla, a Naval Air Man and one of the very first N. W. lads to enter the service, was made a civilian last month. He is a vet of. the So. Pacific whe the So. Pacific was no fun, and experienced plenty of unpleasantness. He came back to the States last year and was stationed in Florida where his wife, Evelyn, joined him. His present interest are directed toward aeronautics, if possible, from Californian bases.

Sgt. Arthur Thomas, who served with the 8th Airforce in Europe as a Bom-

bardier and Navigator, being awarded the Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Clusters for meritorious service, was discharged and back in Fairhope with his wife and three children. Mrs. Thomas is the former Jaqueline Sue Arnold. "Mister" Thomas was discharged on Sept. 22 and after a brief vacation of "loafing" went back to his old job — drafting with the U. S. Engineers in Mobile.

Lt. Marney Lowell is another Fairhopean recently turned "Mr." Marney was a gunnery instructor with the AAF stationed at Ajo, Arizona, and was discharged during the middle of October. He has been in service since June 1943. Marney plans to attend the Alabama Polytechnic Inst. at Auburn.

FAIRHOPE ...

Tom Edmonds, who moved a year ago from Fairhope to Pleasantville, N. Y., joined the Naval Reserve and will attend the Haverford College at Haverford, Pa. Goog luck, Tommy boy.

Fairhope's popular Miss, Beverly McRae, was wed to a Yankee from Wilkes-Barre, Pa. On Oct. 27th. He is Lt. (j.g.) James Wm. Reichert, who before enlisting in the Navy was a student at Buckenll U. Lewisburg, Pa., an inter-collegiate boxing champ and received national recognition as a football star. He is now on the Navy team in Pensacola. To both, our sincerest wishes.

"Big Boy" George Stimpson joined the Navy and was sent to San Diego, Cal. Before he left his friends had a surprise party for him. Big Boy was one of the good athletes of the Organic School. Good luck, Big Boy!

Louise Gaston arrived in Chicago to study styling at the Vogue School of Fashion and Design Mrs. Burton Hoffman is spending the autumn in Glencoe, Ill., but, as soon as it gets "good'n cold" she'll return to Fairhope and her children.

Harriet (Mrs. Patrick) Arnold visited Fairhope for a few weeks and had an enjoyable vacation. Harriet is now back in Greenville, S. C. The Claude Arnolds are building their own home in Fairhope and hope that when it is completed, Claude, now in the Philippines, will be discharged and present for the "House Warming." We are sure he will be back even before then.

The Paysons moved to Lima, Pa., near Philadelphia. I had dinner with Mrs. Payson before her departure. To Mrs. Payson I'm ever grateful for her great help in mimeographing VILTIS each month for the year I was confined to bed. I can never express how truly grateful I am to her nor how much her help meant to the exsistence of Viltis.

CHICAGO

Sophie Zadlo, my predecessor as folk dance instructor at N. W. and whose place I took when she left for Poland seven years ago, is coming home to Chicago. She is married and has a baby. Because she was not heard from during the German occupation of Poland, her family feared for her safety. News of Sophie's safety was too great a shock for her poo mother who had spent anxious days of prayer and worry, and Mrs. Zadlo passed away the following day.

Charlotte Sarett S 1/C had a most enjoyable two-week furlough in Chicago with many receptions presented in her honor. Our WAVE looks lovely, beautiful and charming. During the Open House reception at the home of her parents, among the very many guests present, were some of our old gang: Jane Matecunas, Pat McNamara, Miriam Rosenbloom and yous truly. Charlotte also attended a folk dance session at the Int. House.

Back-to-the-land Movement: The Roses, who for the last three years have lived in Waukesha, Wis., have moved to a farm on the outskirts of Waukesha with hillocks and lovely woods in the back of the home. Lorna, the oungest, had become a very pretty maiden. She has a boy friend in the Navy, and she herself has become a flyer with several hours of solo flying to her credit. Doris will soon be coming to Chicago and will be stationed at the Lying-In Hospital on the South Side. Doris specializes in babies (not her own). Say Mrs. Rose to Doris: "Did you have any Armenian babies? Says Doris; "Mother! Wait a while! Give me a chance!" Before leaving for Chicago Doris had a few weeks' practice on Polio cases.

LYS extends its heartfelt sympathy to Julia, Frank and Mrs Katkus on the death of their father and Husband, Mr. George Katkus, on October 2nd. Requiem Mas was said at the Lithuanian church of St. George. Internment at St. Kazimir's.

Duke Baker, who has lead a very active and strenuous life, is spending a month of rest and vacation at Poynette, Wis. Have a good rest and a good time, pal.

Northwestern U. Settlement was visited by 75 Chicago tourists on Oct. 11th, under the guidance of Jack Worth. It was our rehearsal day, and we presented for them two Polish national dances, the Mazur and the Krakowiak, and the Italian Quadrille. Then, we had all guests join in three easy folk dances from France, Hungary and Germany. Jack Worth is a Park House'r and heads

the Chicago Tours, taking native Chicagoans to places of interest in their home city.

Mrs. Nelle Boand returned from Prospect Hill, Va., her native home, where she had a pleasant visit with the members of her family. Mrs. Boand was there for two months and was glad to rejoin the folk dancing at Int. House.

Thank for help in the last issue of Viltis go to Janie Matecunas, Patsie McNamara, Celia Giebutowska, Hugh Jones and Burton Lawrence.

Albinas Azukas and Harry Wise were guest at the home of Kazy and Lill before the newly weds left for Chicago to make their home. Azukas, who lives now in Washington, D. C., is the only one in the U. S. who saw my parents, brothers and sisters, just before the Bolshevik invasion of Lithuania. He also knew my sister and youngest brother, who were born after I left for United States — a privilege denied to me.

AS FOR MYSELF ...

Guess what!? I've been in North Dakota! For a sick man, I certainly get around!

When I was engaged to come to Jamestown, N. D., to teach, it sounded unbelievable. Somehow I led myself to believe that the type of work I so loved to do before my illness, I'll no more be able to do due to my voice. My trip to N. Dakota, my stop over in St. Paul, and seeing my cousins out there, and everything involved with the trip, seemed so miraculous and almost fantastic. For, according to all, I should have died during my first months of the illness, and since I haven't, I should have remained an invalid for the rest of my life. Even during the week of my discharge, the doctor said, "Your dancing days are over!" But, here I am! Gloria Deo!

It was good to see the green dome and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral once again. It was good to see my cousins again. With them I had spent my grammar school days in Prienai, Lithuania, and in the home of their parents I stayed while attending school. My aunt and uncle died while I was out South. The cousins and I were mutually overjoyed to see each other. My cousin Selma and I went to White Bear Lake to look up the Welch family and they, too, were surprised. It was grand to see them all.

The trip was grand! Along the winding Mississippi with its high bluffs and cliffs while the woodland was arrayed in a most bewitching and multi-hued garb of bright yellow, deep red, brown and green. What can surpass nature in beauty?

N. Dakota was new country for me. At first I was not too impressed. Monotonously flat country for hundreds of miles with small coulees here and there. But I soon realized its individual beauty when I noted how four native Dakota lads coming home from Louisiana on furlough, became animated no sooner the train passed Fargo. They set aside the cards they were playing and gazed through the window with loving admiration and with oft ejaculations; "Ain't it a beauty?" "It is good to see civilized country again." "It is good to see nice clean homes again." "They call those shacks "homes" out in the South." I wished I had my voice and would have told them not to be too hasty about their condemnation of the entire South by what they saw in Louisiana. But I, nevertheless, enjoyed their pride in their home state. True enough, tho, the homes were all neat and trim, all painted white. The fields were well cultivated. The earth is black. Long stretches of wheat and flax. Seldom does one see prairies. One can realize soon enough that conscientious and hard working farm folk inhabit this state. Trees and forests are few; few are the lakes and rivers, yet, the land yields good crops.

It was teaching county recreational leaders of the Farmer's Union who met in Jamestown for one week. The Farmer's Union is the "Producers" branch of the Co-Ops. In Dakota they have a membership of 30,000, which is half of the rural (farm) population. The organization is a very progressive group. Believers in the betterment of the masses, in overcoming prejudices and in recreation as one of the necessities.

The Dakotans are mostly Scandinavians. It is the land of Hanson, Swanson, Nordstrom and Johnson. There, no one hears the words "yes" or "sure," in its stead is used "Ja." They love their coffee and drink it five times the day, at least. They are a jolly and a grand group of people, and I had a wonderful time in their midst. Mr. Evanson and Lyle Rostad took me to the countryside to watch the Combine-Trashing machines thrash. That too was a new experience for me. At the home of the Evansons I enjoyed my first pheasant dinner. The Evansons have two sons; one is in the Philippines and the other, just returned, heavily decorated, from the European theatre, is now stationed in Montana. Mrs. Evanson is an extremely busy and active woman and heads the Junior activities of the organization.

Before leaving for Dakota, I was warned that I was heading for cold country so I went as if I were leaving for the North Pole. To my surprise, that